

## RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

inhuman conditions of labour (on the plantations and mines of the white capitalists, and so on), which at times are worse than open slavery—all this exerts its devastating effect on the colonial population and not infrequently leads to the dying out of whole nationalities. The "cultural role" of the imperialist States in the colonies is in reality the role of an executioner.

10. In regard to the colonial countries it is necessary to distinguish between those colonies of the capitalist countries which have served them as colonising regions for their surplus population, and which in this way have become a continuation of their capitalist system (Australia, Canada, etc.), and those colonies which are exploited by the imperialists primarily as markets for their commodities, as sources of raw material and as spheres for the export of capital. This distinction has not only a historic but also a great economic and political significance.

The colonies of the first type, on the basis of their general development, became "Dominions", that is, members of the given imperialist system with equal or nearly equal rights. In them, capitalist development reproduces among the immigrant white population the class structure of the metropolis, at the same time that the native population was for the most part exterminated. There cannot be there any talk of the colonial regime in the form that it shows itself in the colonies of the second type. Between these two types is to be found a transitional type (in various forms) where, alongside the numerous native population, there exists a very considerable population of white colonists (South Africa, New Zealand, Algiers, etc.). The bourgeoisie, which has come from the metropolis, in essence represents in these countries (emigrant colonies) nothing else than a colonial "prolongation" of the bourgeoisie of the metropolis.

. . . The metropolis is interested to a certain extent in the strengthening of its capitalist "subsidiary" in the colonies, in particular when this subsidiary of imperialism is successful in enslaving the original native population or even in completely destroying it. On the other hand, the competition between various imperialist systems for influence in these semi-independent countries can lead also to their breaking off from the

metropolis and even  
to a union with the competitors of the latter. These reasons  
frequently compel imperialism to reconcile itself to a certain political and  
economic  
independence of its agencies in such colonies (Dominions),  
which then  
assume the position of an allied and kindred power towards  
the respective  
imperialism.

11. The imperialist colonial regime is essentially based not  
only on economic  
pressure but also on the extra-economic compulsion of  
the monopoly  
of the bourgeoisie of the imperialist countries in the  
corresponding de-  
pendent countries. This monopoly, however, expresses itself  
in two basic  
functions: on the one hand it serves the purpose of  
merciless exploitation  
of the colony (various forms of immediate and indirect  
exaction of tribute,  
super-profits in connection with the sale of its own  
industrial goods, with

[336]